

THEY'RE STILL AT WAR.

FIGHT BETWEEN THE SEABOARD AND SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION.

Cutting and Slaughtering of Rates Will Be Disastrous to the Shipping Interests.

What is Said by Local Men.

Among the transportation men in the city, the rate war now going on between the Seaboard Air Line and its associate the Baltimore Steam Packet Company, on the one side, and the Southern States Freight Association on the other, is the topic of paramount interest.

It was being discussed not only in railroad circles yesterday, but was generally talked about in shipping circles.

The nature of the war is well known. As explained in yesterday's Times the committee from the Executive Board of the Southern States Freight Association, headed by Mr. St. John, Vice-President and General Manager of the Seaboard Air Line, who told them point blank that unless the Southern Railway Company withdrew their new line of steamers, and accepted of certain terms as to through-freight, the association would hold on to their cut rates, and might go further. Then came the 50 per cent. cut on all roads in the Association, on all classes of freight except grain, flour, wheat, meal and hay.

THE ROADS INVOLVED.—Through the rate war now being fought between the Seaboard Air Line and Baltimore Steam Packet Company and the Southern, there are a large number of the most important transportation lines in the South involved. The lines making up the Association are: Alabama Great Southern Railroad; Alabama Midland Railroad; Atlanta and West Georgia Railroad; Baltimore and Chesapeake Railroad; Baltimore, Chesapeake and Richmond Steamboat Company; Brunswick and Western Railroad; Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad; Central of Georgia Railroad; Charleston and Savannah Railroad; Chickasaw, New Orleans and Texas Pacific Railroad; Clyde Steamship Line; Columbus Southern Railroad; East and West Railroad; Florida, Central and Peninsula Railroad; Georgia Railroad; Georgia Midland and Gulf Railroad; Georgia Southern and Florida Railroad; Louisville and Nashville Railroad; Merchants and Miners Transportation Company; New York and Texas Steamship Company; Norfolk and Western Railroad; Norfolk and Virginia Steamship Company; Savannah, Old Dominion and Western Railroad; Southern Railway; Western Railway of Alabama; Western and Atlantic Railroad; Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.

SEABOARD ON HER METTLE.—The Seaboard is really fighting the whole Southern Association. The fight is, of course, a hard one, but the Seaboard is on her mettle and has announced her purpose to stay in the fight to the bitter end. Mr. St. John is said to be just the kind of a man to keep the fight going, and to make further cuts if necessary. He is backed by President Hoffman, who, as already stated in the Times, will keep the rate war going until what he deems his rights have been recognized. It is thought the Seaboard will meet the cut ordered by the Association. It is rumored around that this cut will be inaugurated in time to take effect simultaneously with the Association's cut, which will go into effect within the next week.

NO ORDERS FROM THE WAR.—Yesterday afternoon, inquiries were made at the office of the Southern, Old Dominion, and Norfolk and Western, but none of the local officials of these lines had received any instructions from the seat of war. The several agencies are waiting for orders from the Association, where this thing is going to stop. The war is on, and there is no telling where it will end. It will require but a few more small cuts to bring about the transportation of certain classes of freight free of charge. If the cut is made, a rates between New York and Baltimore is made a little lower, it will be cheaper to travel than to stay at home, and it is thought that some people will close up their houses and live aboard the Bay Line steamers during the heated term.

WILL THE DISASTROUS?—A well-known transportation man told me yesterday that the rate war would be disastrous to business in general, and that some settlement was badly needed. It is argued that the fight will create a demoralization and a vast loss of revenue to Southern railroads, and result in the reduction of the number of railroad employees, as well as great reduction in salaries and wages. The conflicting interests of the lines involved have been affected with a wider breach. The Traffic Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce is watching the situation, and it is thought, will demand the fullest protection of their interests from the lines concerned in the rate war. It is thought that the rate war has been a disaster to Richmond shippers. It is thought that the interests of Richmond shippers will be protected so far as possible.

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RETRENCHMENT AND REFORM.

City Engineer W. E. Cuthaw Makes a Detailed Statement to the Committee.

The Council Committee on Retrenchment and Reform at its last meeting divided itself into sub-committees for the purpose of looking into the workings of the various departments of the city government. The sub-committee, which was given the examination of the Health Department and that of the City Engineer, was the first one to take the matter up. It met last evening at 8 o'clock in the City Hall, with the following members present: Messrs. J. J. King (chairman), Ebel, and Hurrell. Mr. Starke was the only absentee.

Colonel W. E. Cuthaw, the City Engineer, appeared before the body and made a detailed statement of the work of his department. His statement was in substance as follows:

The Engineer's Department comprises the Engineer, four assistants, and one clerk. There is also another assistant temporarily employed by action of the City Council, to compile property maps and prepare maps of the city and sewers existing in the city. Besides, there are three managers of the hands in the three districts, a sewer foreman, a blacksmith and help, a wheelwright, and a watchman at the city stables. This is the same force which formed the department twenty years ago, with the exception that there is one man more. When Colonel Cuthaw entered the department in 1874, there was also a stable manager, but in 1874 the duties of that position were conferred upon one of the district managers.

The hands and carts. The present force is practically the same as the force twenty years ago. Messrs. E. S. and Frank T. Bates, L. B. Jacobs, the clerk and the three managers; J. H. Gardner, D. F. Craddock, and C. H. Toot have been connected with the department ever since. The territory has recently been enlarged by the addition of the new area, the work of engineering in the city has been very much increased in fixing the grades of streets, laying out railroads, etc.

During the past twenty-three years the demands made on the department have multiplied, but the office has endeavored to keep up with the same. If the force was to be reduced, it would be difficult

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General Bradley T. Johnson has returned from Cuba, where he went as a correspondent of a New York paper. The General has sent to The News a letter which gives in detail the facts concerning the challenge he received to fight a duel with an officer of the Spanish army.

The affair was looked upon as one of much significance by sympathizers with the Cuban cause, as it was thought to be an effort to "bully" General Johnson and afterward to ride rough-shod over other Americans. It was for this reason that the General decided to meet the matter positively. The General's letter follows: WANTS THE FACTS KNOWN TO HIS FRIENDS.

"To the Editor of The News, July 15. 'I arrived yesterday, and was in quarantine until this afternoon. As I have not seen the American papers from July 8th to the 15th, I do not know what has been published about the duel. Translated from English into Spanish and then back into English mixes things up, and if the substance of the settlement has not been published, justice to my friends would seem to require that they have the entire facts.

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FOUR TRADE OUTLOOK.

NOTHING TO INDICATE AN EARLY REVIVAL OF BUSINESS.

Produce Markets Seriously Depressed,